



The fear of the LORD
is the beginning of
wisdom, and the
knowledge of the Holy
One is understanding.
Proverbs 9:10

Bible Study:



Read Proverbs. Not all at once, but often. And as you do, approach the book, not as a set of instructions, or promises of reward for good works, but rather as God's gracious provision of **principles** that profoundly clarify **His good nature**.

Note that that book of proverbs essentially paints our journey in life as a series of crossroads where we must choose either wisdom or folly (foolishness). And James tells us that only the wisdom from Heaven is pure and trustworthy (James 3:17). Note also the prevalence of the importance of **wise counsel**.

The gospel in the story:



The book of Proverbs was written by Solomon, whose life is a clear gospel proclamation. That is, Solomon was born into a very broken situation (son of adulterous parents), yet at his birth, for no other reason that it was God's good pleasure, God named him Jedidiah, which means "God's Beloved."

The book of Proverbs is God's gracious gift to humanity to help lead us to the only one who can provide true wisdom. For all who humble themselves, God freely gives His good gifts, and Jesus' death on the cross is the zenith of that wonderful and perfect truth!

Application:

Head: **What did we learn?**

Q: Are all the proverbs promises? A: Those that proclaim God's nature are promises. BUT those that describe behaviors and outcomes for people are principles, NOT promises.

Heart : **Memory verse**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
Prov. 9:10

Hands: **How does this affect the way I live my life?**

The book of proverbs boldly proclaims that "wisdom is supreme" (Prov. 4:7). That is, it is the only worthy pursuit in this life. The fruit of wisdom and the Fear of the LORD are this: **close relationship with God**. Only then may we live in the light of His wisdom and not lean on our own understanding (Prov. 3:5).

We should approach the proverbs not as a set of guidelines, but rather a THERMOMETER by which to measure the Spirit's leading in our life drawing us closer to Him. We choose wisdom by making the pursuit of Jesus our highest goal!